

# CHARLES MOHR AND PLANT LIFE OF ALABAMA<sup>1</sup>

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Charles Mohr (1824-1901) was one of the foremost botanists of the southern United States during the late nineteenth century. His stature as an early southern botanist is overshadowed only by that of A. W. Chapman, author of numerous editions of the *Flora of the Southern States*. Like Chapman, Mohr was both a resident botanist and, for the most part, an amateur botanist. His 40 years of study centered in Mobile, Alabama. These studies culminated in the publication shortly after his death of *Plant Life of Alabama*, which remains as the only published attempt to describe the flora of the entire state.

During an investigation of the contents of the herbarium of the Geological Survey of Alabama (Mohr Herbarium), I realized that very little was known about either Mohr's life or his scientific works. It is the purpose of this paper to examine the life of Mohr, his scientific works, and the circumstances leading to the publication of *Plant Life of Alabama*.

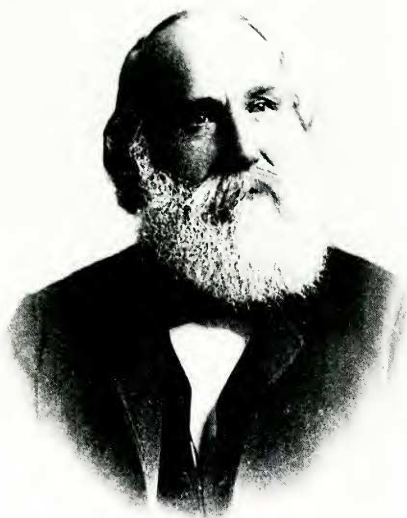
Facts contained in the following biographical sketch were drawn largely from Hoffmann (1887), Scribner (1893), Smith (1901b, c), and Tracy (1901). Supplementary facts were garnered from less extensive works and from letters exchanged between Mohr and Eugene Allen Smith, then State Geologist of Alabama. These letters are stored in the Special Collections of the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library, The University of Alabama. The sources for other letters cited are included with the references.

## SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF CHARLES MOHR

Charles Theodore Mohr (originally, Karl Theodor Mohr) was born December 28, 1824 in Esslingen, Württemberg, Germany, the son of Louis M. and Dorothea Mohr. He spent his youth in Esslingen and at the Cloister Denkendorf, where his father had obtained an interest in a chemical factory. His early interest in plants is linked to his great uncle, who was a pensioned forester of the district, and to a local pastor who was interested in nature studies.

In the fall of 1842 Mohr entered the polytechnic school of Stuttgart, where his studies concentrated on chemistry and natural sciences. These studies were supplemented by weekend geological and botanical excursions, during

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Charles Mohr.  
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Fig. 1. Portrait of Charles Mohr, from Smith (1901c).

which Mohr made notations of the geological formations and plant associations observed (Hoffmann 1887).

During the summer of 1845 Mohr was assigned to arrange the herbarium duplicates of the institute and to distribute these specimens to the secondary schools in the area. While pursuing this work he met August Kappler, who was engaged in the collection of natural history specimens from Dutch Guiana (Surinam). In November, 1845, he left with Kappler on an expedition to explore the headwaters of the Surinam River. The party arrived at the coast of Guiana near the middle of March, 1846. Mohr was only able to spend seven months in South America, however, as an attack of dysentery and fever confined him to camp—the first attack of the ill health that would always plague him. According to Robinson (1903), Kappler “heartlessly left him behind, to live or die, while he [Kappler] pushed onward in his ventures.”

In March, 1847, Mohr returned to Europe and soon found employment as a chemist in Brunn, Austria. However, the political turmoil of 1848 forced the business to close, while it also eliminated Mohr's hopes for a higher education (Mohr 1879). At this time Mohr and his older brother immigrated to the United States, arriving in New York in October, 1848. After a short stay in Philadelphia, they moved on to Cincinnati, where Mohr again found employment as a chemist.

In March, 1849, Mohr set off with about 50 other young men as a member of the “Cincinnati Gold Mining and Trading Company” to seek his fortune in the gold fields of California. After outfitting in Independence, Missouri, the group headed westward in mid-April with 10 wagons. The journey became increasingly difficult, and at Fort Laramie many belongings had to be abandoned. At this point Mohr traded his gun to a Sioux Indian in exchange for a pack horse to carry his books and plant collection (Hoffmann 1887).

After splitting into parties of 10, the group reached Fort Hall in July. It was here that the wagons and baggage had to be given up, and Mohr dumped his books and plant collection into the Snake River. The parties reunited in Sacramento near the middle of August, after a trip totaling 110 days.

Mohr and his party met with some success at placer mining in California. However, again, in the spring of 1850 Mohr fell ill to mountain fever and decided to return east. He and some others left the mines in September, 1850, for San Francisco, where they booked passage for Panama. While traveling across the Isthmus, the party's pack mules—along with Mohr's collection of California plants—were stolen, and Mohr again fell ill to fever. He finally reached New Orleans and traveled to Cincinnati, arriving toward the end of December, 1850. He and his brother purchased a farm in Clark County, Indiana, and he married Sophie Roemer on March 12, 1852.

Various attacks of rheumatism soon convinced Mohr that he was not suited for a farmer's life, so he established himself in the drug business in Louisville,

Kentucky. Here he became acquainted with the bryologist Leo Lesquereux and resumed his botanical studies, concentrating on the mosses. However, again his health failed, and Mohr was advised by his physician to move to a warmer climate. He moved first to Louisiana, then to Vera Cruz, Mexico, and in early 1857 established himself in the highlands of Mexico between Cordoba and Orizaba. Again, political turmoil forced him to move on, and he arrived in Mobile, Alabama, in the autumn of 1857.

Mohr remained in Mobile for the next 40 years, where he founded a successful drug business. This business suffered much during the Civil War, during which Mohr was employed by the Confederate government in the manufacture of drugs from native resources and the testing of medicines smuggled in from Europe. He remained in the drug business until 1892, when he turned the management over to his son, Charles A. Mohr. Mohr lived in Mobile for eight years following his retirement, and Schenck (1955) describes him during this time as "an old and broken man, who spoke English with a Wurtembergian accent, although he had lived in the United States for forty years."

In March, 1900, Mohr and his wife moved to Asheville, North Carolina, both to provide a change in climate and to give him the opportunity to work in the Biltmore Herbarium. He died in Asheville on July 17, 1901.

#### SCIENTIFIC WORKS OF CHARLES MOHR

The scientific works of Charles Mohr can be summarized as being scientifically accurate but leaning toward the practical and economic aspects of botany, agriculture, and geology. In his biographical sketch, Smith (1901c) states:

From about 1878 the results of these [Mohr's] scientific investigations began to be made public in a series of articles, at first practical and economic only, afterwards more strictly scientific and specialized, but always directed toward the imparting of useful knowledge to his fellowmen. As with his collections, primarily intended to illustrate some feature of our natural resources, they grew in breadth and completeness until they became illustrative of monographs.

These interests and goals adequately sum up the scientific works of Charles Mohr.

Tracy (1901) states that Mohr's first scientific paper was a lecture presented in Vienna in 1847 on the geology of the Surinam region. Like most of his peers, Mohr was interested in other aspects of the natural sciences besides forest botany, and he included mineralogy, geology, and conchology among his interests. He contributed a short paper concerned with both geology and anthropology to the 1881 Smithsonian Institution *Annual Report* (Mohr 1883a).

Smith (1901b) states that during the summer of 1876 Mohr examined the gold reserves of the metamorphic region of Alabama, and that the floristic notes that he took during this study were published in Berney's *Hand Book*.

Smith further states that the collection of minerals from this trip was exhibited in Mobile in 1876 and in Atlanta in 1881, and that the collection was eventually sent to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A report by Mohr on the economic geology of Alabama was issued in 1878.

Mohr's earliest contributions to North American botany involved collections of mosses and ferns. As mentioned previously, Mohr met the bryologist Leo Lesquereux while at Louisville, and Scribner (1893) states that Mohr "greatly assisted Lesquereux and James by furnishing material for their work on the mosses of North America." Smith (1901b, c) adds that Mohr's collection of ferns of southern Alabama was sent to Daniel C. Eaton and incorporated into his *Ferns of North America*. Mohr also published five short papers on bryology in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* in 1874. Although he published no more on the subject, Mohr's interest in cryptogams must have continued throughout his life, as F. S. Earle read a paper by Mohr on the mosses of Alabama to the 1899 Columbus botanical meetings (Anonymous 1899).

Mohr's interests always leaned toward the practical side of science, and these interests brought him to perform numerous investigations for the Grange on methods of improving the soils of Alabama. These investigations included the assessment of the value of various types of wood ashes, pine straw, leaves, and cotton seed hulls as soil builders. The results of these experiments were never published.

Another primary interest of Mohr's was the examination of plants introduced to North America on ships' ballast. By living in the international port of Mobile, Mohr was able to comb the ballast grounds for newly introduced species. His preliminary findings were published in the *Botanical Gazette* in 1878, and many detailed notations of plant introductions and dispersals are found in *Plant Life of Alabama*. Many plants collected by Mohr and deposited in the Mohr Herbarium are simply marked "ballast ground" and include the date of their first introduction.

Botany, however, was a recreational activity for Mohr, as his training was that of a chemist and his business was based on drugs. He combined his vocation and avocation in a number of articles in the *Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association*, as well as in the German *Pharmaceutische Rundschau*. His "Medicinal Plants of Alabama" was published both in English and in German (Mohr 1890a, b). His knowledge of medicinal plants was well known, and in 1897 Mohr was appointed to the U. S. subcommission of the Pan-American Medical Congress to study the American medicinal flora (Anonymous 1897).

A quick glance at Mohr's publications indicates that his interests lay primarily in forestry and forest products. These interests led to his many popular articles published in *Garden and Forest* and in the *Rundschau*, as well as addresses to various meetings, such as the American Cotton Planters Association (Mohr 1883c). He was in charge of several natural history exhibi-

tions at regional expositions, including the New Orleans exposition of 1884. Mohr (1883b) published a list of the natural resources displayed at the Louisville exhibition for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad which Scribner (1893) described as "one of the few papers of its kind which possesses real scientific merit."

In 1880, Mohr was contacted by Charles Sprague Sargent to investigate the forests of the Gulf states. Although he expressed concern about receiving credit for his work (Mohr 1882a), Mohr's results were published in the ninth volume of the Tenth United States Census. This work marked the beginning of a long association with the Department of Agriculture, which culminated in the writing of a series of extensive monographs on southern trees of economic importance. One such report (Mohr 1896a) treated the southern pines and included a study on wood anatomy by another author. "Notes on the Red Cedar" was published posthumously. Smith (1901b) reported that at the time of Mohr's death the monographs on Bald Cypress and Juniper were also in press, and that one on the oaks had been completed, but none of these papers has ever been published.

Mohr was a member of many pharmaceutical and scientific associations, and he played an active role in most of them. As enumerated by Tracy (1901), Mohr was an honorary member of the state pharmaceutical associations of both Ohio and Louisiana, and is listed as a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association from 1871 onward (Anonymous 1885). Mohr's letters indicate his participation in two revisions of the *Pharmacopeia* (Mohr 1890c, 1900a). As for botanical associations, Mohr was a corresponding member of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the Torrey Botanical Club, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is known to have presented papers to the 1891 and 1892 meetings of the latter Association (Anonymous 1891, 1892).

Mohr's most active participation, however, was in the field of forestry, and especially as a member of the American Forestry Congress. At the Cincinnati meeting in April, 1882, he presented a paper, "The Southern Pine," and was appointed to chair a committee "to report upon Forest Fires, and the Injuries to Forests by Cattle" (Anonymous 1882a). At the Montreal meeting in August, 1882, he was appointed temporary treasurer and a member of three committees, and also presented a paper (Anonymous 1882b).

Through his many activities, Mohr was able to meet and maintain contact with many of the prominent scientists of his day. He corresponded frequently with N. L. Britton, largely concerning questions of nomenclature and the identification of sedges, and these letters can be found in the archives of the New York Botanical Garden. The Smithsonian Institution Archives contain his many letters to G. R. Vasey, J. N. Rose, S. M. Tracy, and C. L. Pollard. In letters to Smith, Mohr (1882b, c) mentioned meeting A. W. Chapman while working in Washington and meeting George Engelmann

while staying with Sargent in Massachusetts. His correspondence and consultation with Chapman continued until the latter's death and is related in a biographical sketch of Chapman (Mohr 1899a). In a different letter, Mohr (1898) mentioned that Gifford Pinchot hoped to meet him, and his association with another prominent forester, George B. Sudworth, is described in an earlier publication (Mohr 1892a).

#### PUBLISHED WORKS OF CHARLES MOHR

The following is a list of the published works of Charles Mohr. Fifty-five entries are listed, and, although it is hoped to be complete, additional works may be found, especially in German journals. This list does not include re-printings or re-editions, nor does it include the many abstracts listed by Harper (1928). Journal title abbreviations follow Lawrence et al. (1968). An asterisk (\*) indicates a work that I have not seen.

- Additions to the bryology of the United States, I-V. 1874. Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 5:5-8, 12-13, 34-35, 49-50, 50-51.
- On *Pynanthemum linifolium* and its chemical constituents. 1877. Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc. 24:513-516.
- Foreign plants introduced into the Gulf states. 1878. Bot. Gaz. (Crawfordsville) 3:42-46.
- \*Economic geology of Alabama: report on the minerals of Alabama, exhibited at the fifth annual fair of the Mobile agricultural, horticultural, and mechanical fair assn. 1878. Gulf Citizen 1:524-537.
- The forests of Alabama, and their products. 1878. Pages 221-235 in Saffold Berney, ed. Hand book of Alabama. Mobile Register Press, Mobile, Ala. 338 pp.
- The grasses, and other forage plants of Alabama: indigenous, naturalized, and cultivated. 1878. Pages 236-247 in Saffold Berney, ed. Hand book of Alabama. Mobile Register Press, Mobile, Ala. 338 pp.
- Preliminary list of the plants growing without cultivation in Alabama, from the collections made by Eugene A. Smith, Tuscaloosa, and Chas. Mohr, Mobile, Ala. 1880. No publisher. 56 pp.
- Analysis of *Eriodictyon californicum*. 1880. Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc. 27:736-740.
- Rhus cotinoides*, Nutt. 1882. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1882:217-220.
- On the distribution of the more important forest trees in the Gulf region. 1882. Amer. J. Forest. 1:78-88, 120-126.
- On the distribution of the more important forest trees in the Gulf region. 1883. Amer. J. Forest. 1:179-184, 200-216.
- Aboriginal soapstone quarry and shell-heaps in Alabama. 1883. Annual Rep. Smithsonian Inst., 1881:617-619.
- List of trees and plants characteristic of each region of the state. 1883. Rep. Alabama Geol. Surv., 1881-82:291-297.
- The natural resources of Alabama, displayed in the exhibit of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, at the Southern Exposition, Louisville, Kentucky. 1883. Daily Register Press, Mobile, Ala. 22 pp.
- On *Quercus durandii*, Buckley. 1883. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1883:37-38.
- The lands of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in Alabama, as homesteads for the settler. 1884. Roberts and Son, Birmingham, Ala. 16 pp.
- \*Rare and little known trees and shrubs of Alabama. 1884. Trans. Mississippi Valley Hort. Soc. 2:216-219.
- \*Ueber die verbreitung der terpentinen liefernden pinusarten im suden der vereinigten

- staaten und ueber die gewinnung und verarbeitung des terpentins. 1884. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 2:163-166, 187-190.
- The forests in the vicinity of Mobile. 1885. Pages 48-53 in Sub Rosa [pseudonym for Paul Ravesies], ed. Scenes and settlers of Alabama. No publisher. 120 pp.
- \*Regions of forest growth [in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida]. 1885. Pages 66-67 in C. V. Riley, ed. Fourth report of the United States Entomological Commission.
- \*Ueber drei vercinzelte burger des floren-gebietes der nordamerikanischen sudstaaten. 1887. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 5:8-11.
- \*Untersuchung der blatter von *Gleditschia triacanthos*, L. 1887. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 5:250.
- \*Forests of the United States. 1887. Pap. New Orleans Acad. Sci. 1:19-39.
- Winter in Mobile. 1888. Gard. & Forest 1:16.
- The hardwood forests of the South. 1888. Gard. & Forest 1:34-35.
- Spring in Mobile. 1888. Gard. & Forest 1:88.
- The long-leaved pine. 1888. Gard. & Forest 1:261-262.
- \*Ueber die verbreitung der pflanzen durch thiere. 1888. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 6:177-181.
- The pecan tree (*Hickoria pecan*). 1889. Gard. & Forest 2:569-570.
- The latest addition to the shrubs of eastern North America. 1889. Gard. & Forest 2:592.
- The medicinal plants of Alabama: systematic list of the medicinal plants occurring within the limits of the state, with notes on their distribution and proper time of collecting the parts used. 1890. Mobile Register Press, Mobile, Ala. 17 pp.
- Vegetation in southern Alabama. 1890. Gard. & Forest 3:140, 212.
- Pinus glabra*. 1890. Gard. & Forest 3:295.
- The Florida spruce pine. 1890. Gard. & Forest 3:402-403.
- \**Hickoria olivaeformis*. 1890. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 8:56-59.
- \*Die medicinischen pflanzen von Alabama. 1890. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 8:240-243, 257-262.
- \*Vegetation of Louisiana and adjoining regions, and its products, in relation to pharmacy and allied industries. 1891. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 9:132-135.
- The general features of the vegetation of Louisiana and adjoining region, and its products in relation to pharmacy and allied industries. 1892. Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc. 39:76-84.
- Our remaining hard-wood resources. 1892. Engineering Mag. 4:378-385.
- Variation in the leaves of *Clematis reticulata* and other notes. 1892. Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 19:308-309.
- \*Die gebirgsflora Alabama. 1892. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 10:253.
- The mountain flora of Alabama. 1892. Gard. & Forest 5:507-508.
- The distribution of some forest trees in the southern states. 1893. Gard. & Forest 6:372-373.
- \*Die walder des sudlichen Abalabamas. 1894. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 12:211-213.
- \*Die walder der alluvial region des Mississippi in den staaten Louisiana, Mississippi und Arkansas. 1895. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 13:14-15.
- \*Die walder des sudlichen Abalabamas. 1895. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 13:30-33.
- \*Ueber das vorkommen des balsams von *Liquidambar styraciflua* L. 1895. Pharm. Rundschau (Berlin & New York) 13:57-58.
- The timber pines of the southern United States: with an introduction by B. E. Fernow, and a discussion of the structure of their wood by Filibert Roth. U.S.D.A. Div. Forest. Bull. 13. 160 pp.



- Notes on some undescribed and little known plants of the Alabama flora. 1897. Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 24:19-28.
- Report on the forests of Sand Mountain. 1898. The Forester 4:211-215.
- Notes on some new and little known plants of the Alabama flora. 1899. Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 26:118-121.
- Alvin Wentworth Chapman. 1899. Bot. Gaz. (Crawfordsville) 27:473-478.
- Plant life of Alabama: an account of the distribution, modes of association, and adaptations of the flora of Alabama, together with a systematic catalogue of the plants growing in the state. 1901. Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 6:1-921.
- Plant life of Alabama. 1901. Alabama Geol. Surv. Monogr. 5. 921 pp.
- \*Notes on the red cedar. 1901. U.S.D.A. Div. Forest. Bull. 31. 37 pp.

#### PLANT LIFE OF ALABAMA

Mohr's major scientific work was *Plant Life of Alabama*, published July 31, 1901—just two weeks after his death. This work was produced with the assistance of the Geological Survey of Alabama and its head, Eugene Allen Smith, and represents an elaboration of the "Preliminary List" from the collections of Mohr and Smith (Mohr 1880).

Letters exchanged between Mohr and Smith fail to indicate when the decision was made to begin work on a complete flora of Alabama. However, in 1882, after completion of his field work for the Census, Mohr (1882d) wanted "to be left quietly at home" until he had completed "our Alabama Flora." Four years later, Mohr (1886) mentioned working on the Flora, and by 1889 he was ready to add the lower plants to it (Mohr 1889).

Concentrated work on the project was not begun until 1891, when approval of funding was granted by the governor of Alabama (Mohr 1891). Under the terms agreed upon, Mohr received \$50 per month as a retainer, with the total amounting to \$5 per finished page (Mohr 1892b, 1896b). Mohr was able to devote most of his time to the Flora after his retirement from the pharmacy business in 1892, although commitments to the U.S.D.A. had to be met also. In 1896, Mohr asked for and was granted a temporary reprieve from his Department of Agriculture duties (Mohr 1896e).

Work on the Flora accelerated in 1896. In that year a botanist at Auburn, Alabama—P. H. Mell—published a bulletin describing the plants of Alabama (Mell 1896). In this work, Mell utilized data obtained from Mohr. The *Botanical Gazette* (Anonymous 1896a) accused Mell of undermining Mohr's work, stating that "we cannot believe that this extensive information was obtained from our good friend with the expressed intention of anticipating his own flora. In other words, Dr. Mohr must have granted a favor that has been abused." Although a later article (Anonymous 1896b) in that journal exonerated Mell from blame, a series of letters exchanged between Mohr and Smith indicate that suspicions of Mell's abuse were valid (Mohr 1896c; Smith 1896b). Mohr soon after decided to treat the entire Mell affair with "silent contempt" (Mohr 1896d).

Later in 1896, Mohr indicated additional pressure to complete and publish his work from such botanists as John K. Small and Thomas H. Kearney.

He stated (Mohr 1896f): "By the activity with which of late the younger northern botanists begin to explore these parts, they are apt to take the wind out of my sails on many points." For this reason he decided to quickly publish his "novelties" in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*. He was further dismayed by the publication of Britton and Brown's *Illustrated Flora*, as he felt that it embraced a large number of southern plants (Mohr 1896h).

Although Mohr relied heavily upon his own experience, knowledge, and herbarium in writing *Plant Life of Alabama*, many other experts and collections were consulted. An updated catalogue of the plants contained in the Geological Survey collection was used as a working model, and this catalogue was sent to N. L. Britton for revision to fit the Rochester rules of nomenclature (Mohr 1893a). Mrs. N. L. Britton was asked to examine the portions of the manuscript concerning the mosses (Mohr 1899b). Specimens of the genus *Aster* were sent to Prof. Burgess in New York, while the grasses and *Silphium* were shipped to Columbia University for verification (Mohr 1897a, b). Mohr conversed with C. H. Merriam on plant distributions within the state (Mohr 1894). The Engelmann Herbarium at St. Louis was consulted, as well as the herbarium and libraries at Cambridge, Massachusetts (Mohr, 1893b, 1895).

Mohr constantly incorporated information from the most recent publications, even those published while *Plant Life* was in press (Mohr 1901a). In a letter to Tracy, Mohr (1900b) listed his last-minute revisions and consultation of the type material at the National Herbarium, with all changes made at "no matter what sacrifice of time and trouble."

*Plant Life of Alabama* was originally planned to be one of the publications of the Geological Survey of Alabama, and Mohr was partially supported by Survey funds from 1892 on. However, it became apparent to Smith that publication by the Survey would be far too costly and might necessitate the elimination of large parts of the work. He suggested that a publication arrangement be made with the Smithsonian Institution or with the Department of Agriculture, and that an extra edition with an altered title page be printed as an Alabama state document (Smith 1896a, c). Such an agreement was reached to print the work as a *Contribution from the U. S. National Herbarium* (Mohr 1896g).

Publication by the U. S. National Herbarium, however, resulted in a great number of problems. In Smith's opinion, the cost of publication became exorbitant, and he expressed regret at having the work published in Washington (Smith 1900). Although Mohr was informed in July, 1897, that the Printing Office was ready for his manuscript, the work was not published until four years—as well as Mohr's life—had elapsed. Mohr (1900c) could rightfully claim "to have been among the first (if not *the first*) to treat the flora east of the Rockies in respect to its ecological relations," but delays in printing his work allowed others to assume this distinction.

In its final form, *Plant Life of Alabama* is an expanded checklist of all plants known to occur in the state. Each species or variety of plant, from slime mold to angiosperm, is listed with a bibliographic citation, important synonyms, distribution, occurrence in the state, type locality, and the location of representative specimens. A tabular summary of the plants follows the checklist, as well as a list of cultivated species.

*Plant Life of Alabama* was lauded as "the most complete and philosophical local flora ever published . . ." (Tracy 1901). It is more than a mere checklist of plants, because the first 137 pages are descriptive. These pages include accounts of the history of Alabama botany, physiographic features of the state, plant distributions and associations, the relation of the Alabama flora to other floras, and a discussion of introduced plants and their influences. The work thus includes sections covering most of Mohr's interests.

*Plant Life of Alabama* was planned to be the first of a two-volume work on the botanical resources of Alabama, with the second volume dedicated to the economic plants (Smith 1901a). While the economic volume was viewed as being more immediately valuable to the populace, it was felt that the systematic volume was needed first (Smith 1896a).

The earliest mention of an Economic Flora of Alabama was made in 1887, while the first remittance for such work was forwarded in 1899 (Mohr 1887; Smith 1899). The first 350 pages of the work were to be devoted to trees and shrubs, with a sketch of forest botany, while short descriptions of plant families would be included to allow the work to be used as a systematic botany textbook (Mohr 1901b, c).

It is generally believed that Mohr's work on an Economic Flora was progressing well at the time of his death, although a search of Mohr's belongings by his son, Herman B. Mohr, failed to locate the manuscript. His son later implied that, due to his father's failing mental faculties, actual work on the Economic Flora may never have begun (H. B. Mohr 1901a, b). If a manuscript was produced, it is possible that Harper used it as a basis for his very similar work (Harper 1928). However, an examination of the extensive Harper material at The University of Alabama, Gorgas Library, Special Collections failed to turn up Mohr's manuscript.

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